

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11476 01 OF 02 101729Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /095 W

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R 101539Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6793

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BONN 11476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: VORWAERTS ARTICLE ON WIRE TAPPING IN GERMANY

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE BY KONRAD AHLERS, FORMER FEDERAL PRESS SPOKESMAN AND NOW SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY, ON AMERICAN SECURITY ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN GERMANY. THE ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 9 ISSUE OF THE SPD WEEKLY NEWSPAPER VORWAERTS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

THE WAVES OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR HAVE NOW REACHED THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TOO. WHAT THEY WASH ASHORE IS AN ALLEGED SCANDAL INVOLVING TELEPHONE MONITORING THAT BECAME PUBLIC BECAUSE OF THE SINCERITY OF MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OF THE AMERICAN ARMY STATIONED IN GERMANY. THIS MATTER WAS CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WHEREBY NO VIOLATIONS COULD BE ESTABLISHED AGAINST VALID LAW WHICH IN PART IS STILL OCCUPATION LAW. FOR SECURITY REASONS, HOWEVER, CERTAIN THINGS REGRETTABLY HAD TO REMAIN IN THE DARK, SUCH AS THE DETAILS OF THESE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AND THE NAMES OF MOST PERSONS INVOLVED.

THIS IS WHY THE PUBLIC HAS TO BE CONTENT WITH THE OFFICIAL ASSURANCE THAT EVERYTHING IN THIS MATTER WAS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 11476 01 OF 02 101729Z

LEGAL AND PROPER. IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE TO QUIBBLE AT

THIS ASSURANCE BEFORE NEW FACTS BECOME KNOWN THAT PERMIT JUSTIFIED DOUBTS IN IT. HOWEVER, A PERSON WHO IS A BIT FAMILIAR IN THIS FIELD WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPRESS SUCH DOUBTS.

A BRIEF PERUSAL OF THE MATERIAL BROUGHT TO LIGHT BY THE WATERGATE INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN SENATE SHOWS WITH WHAT UNSCRUPULOUSNESS THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION PROCEEDED AGAINST DOMESTIC ADVERSARIES AND SO-CALLED SECURITY RISKS. CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON WERE MONITORED AND EVEN BECAME THE OBJECT OF BURGLARIES, IT WILL HARDLY BE POSSIBLE TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SIMILAR THINGS WERE ALSO DONE ON FOREIGN TERRITORY.

MR. EHRLICHMAN, PRESIDENT NIXON'S ADVISOR ON DOMESTIC POLITICS, TOLD THE WATERGATE COMMITTEE OF HIS CONVICTION THAT, WHEN NATIONAL SECURITY IS INVOLVED, EVERYTHING IS PERMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT, INCLUDING ILLEGAL ACTS. IT HAS SINCE BECOME SUFFICIENTLY KNOWN THAT THIS UNSCRUPULOUSNESS WAS NOT ONLY PROFESSED BUT ALSO FOUND MANIFOLD EXPRESSION IN THE ACTS OF NIXON'S CO-WORKERS.

BY COMPARISON, THE NOW, FAMOUS STATEMENT OF FORMER CSU FEDERAL MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HERMANN HOECHERL THAT THE PROTECTORS OF THE CONSTITUTION COULD NOT ALWAYS WALK ABOUT WITH THE BASIC LAW UNDER THEIR ARM, STRIKES ONE AS ALMOST TOUCHING AND AMIABLE. IN FACT, NO ONE HERE IN BONN WOULD GET THE IDEA TO IMAGINE COLLEAGUE HOECHERL CAPABLE OF DOING WHAT THE PEOPLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE ACTUALLY DID.

WHAT THE SENATE, SUPPORTED BY A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE AMERICAN PRESS, IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH ARE TWO THINGS. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT WISHES TO REDUCE TO A CONSTITUTIONALLY ACCEPTABLE MEASURE THE RIGHTS AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT WHICH, FAVORED BY WARS AND ECONOMIC CRISES, HAVE ASSUMED ALMOST DICTATORIAL PROPORTIONS IN THE PAST DECADES. DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES AND CONSTITUTIONALITY ARE BOUND TO BE ANNULLED IF THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT ARE SUCH AS TO ENABLE HIM TO WAGE WAR WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS, TO EFFECT BOMBARDMENTS BEHIND THE BACK AND AGAINST THE WILL OF CONGRESS, AND TO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 11476 01 OF 02 101729Z

WIN DOMESTIC DISPUTES WITH THE HELP OF CORRUPTIVE AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

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PAGE 01 BONN 11476 02 OF 02 101750Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6794

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BONN 11476

THE SECOND THING THE SENATE IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH ITS WATERGATE INVESTIGATIONS IS A MORAL SELF-PURIFICATION OF AMERICAN POLITICS--AN EFFORT THAT DESERVES EVERY RESPECT. IT HAS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IF AMERICA IS TO CONTINUE ITS IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ROLE. THE PRESIDENT'S CREDIBILITY HAS REACHED A NADIR THAT CAN BECOME VERY DANGEROUS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THE COHESION OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. THE PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AMERICA AND EUROPE CALLS FOR AN APPROXIMATELY INTACT PARTNER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC--WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT IS WANTING AFTER THE AMERICAN DEFEAT IN VEITNAM, THE DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR, THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AND THE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE AROUND NIXON RESULTING FROM THE LATTER.

BUT THIS SELF-PURIFICATION PROCESS IS ALREADY PRODUCING FIRST RESULTS. THE ANLGO-SAXONS ARE MORE EXPERIENCED AND SUCCESSFUL IN THIS RESPECT THAN THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT. THERE ARE MANY HISTORIC PRECEDENTS TO PROVE THIS, SUCH AS THE JUDGMENT OF CONDEMNATION OF THE AMERICAN SENATE AGAINST COMMUNIST HUNTER MCCARTHY IN THE 1950'S. THE FACT THAT AMERICAN SOLDIERS NOW TOLD AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ABOUT THEIR TELEPHONE MONITORING IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS ANOTHER GOOD OMEN FOR THE PROGRESS OF THIS PROCESS. THEY DID SO WITH EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AND IN THE SAME MORAL ATTITUDE WHICH CAUSED A HIGH-RANKING AMERICAN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 11476 02 OF 02 101750Z

OFFICIAL TO CONFESS BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE THAT NIXON HAS ALL HIS CONVERSATIONS MONITORED AND RECORDED. IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT SUCH A THING DOES NOT HAPPEN EITHER IN THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY OR ON THE VENUSBERG.

NEVERTHELESS, THE TELEPHONE MONITORING IN THIS COUNTRY HAS NOT ONLY A LEGAL BUT ALSO A POLITICAL SIDE. WHAT IS LEGAL CAN NEVERTHELESS BE INOPPORTUNE OR EVEN INACCEPTABLE POLITICALLY. LARGE PARTS OF OUR PUBLIC, AND ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, STRONGLY RESENTED THE WAY IN WHICH THE VIETNAM WAR WAS FOUGHT. THIS IS WHY AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO REVOLTED AGAINST IT AND EVEN DESERTED COULD BE SURE OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT. WHAT WAS INVOLVED THEREIN WAS A QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL MORALS. SECURITY MEASURES OF THE US ARMY AGAINST SUCH EVENTS, THOUGH UNDERSTANDABLE AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF VALID LEGISLATION, NEVERTHELESS GIVE REASON TO JUSTIFY POLITICAL OBJECTIONS FROM OUR SIDE, ESPECIALLY WHEN GERMAN CITIZENS ARE AFFECTED BY THEM.

FOR THIS REASON, POLITICAL PRUDENCE AND RESPECT FOR SENTIMENTS IN THEIR HOST COUNTRY SHOULD CAUSE THE AMERICANS TO LIMIT SUCH SECURITY MEASURES TO A MINIMUM REQUIRED BY THE SECURITY OF THE ENTIRE NATO DEFENSE EFFORT. THE CONCERNS OF THE US ARMY ALONE CANNOT BE A YARDSTICK IN THIS RESPECT. ALL PEOPLE WHO FEEL THAT THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN ARMED FORCES IS NECESSARY, WHO ADVOCATE THE MAINTENANCE OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES OF DEFENSE ON THE PART OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND WHO HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL MANAGE QUICKLY TO OVERCOME THEIR POLITICAL CRISIS MUST WISH THAT GENERAL DAVISON, THE AMERICAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, WILL MAKE THE PROPER DECISIONS IN THIS MATTER.
END TEXT.HILLENBRAND

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